



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

GAO

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

B-173761

IAN 5 19/8

Mr. James C. Beachell

Dear Mr. Beachell:

This replies to your letter of October 28, 1977, in which you requested a copy of a GAO report entitled "Problems In Slowing The Flow Of Cocaine And Heroin From And Through South America" GGD-75-80, dated May 30, 1975.

Your letter cites the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 8552. As an agency responsible to the Congress, the General Accounting Office is not subject to the provisions of that Act. It is our policy, however, to make our records available to the public to the extent disclosure is consistent with our functions and our responsibilities to the Congress and is not prohibited by law. Accordingly, we have issued regulations concerning the public availability of GAO records that are published in Part 81 of title 4 of the Code of Federal Regulations. We consider your request as having been made under these regulations.

The report you requested is officially classified "confidential" and exempt from the declassification schedule of Executive Order 11652, as amended, 3 C.F.R. 339 (1974). It therefore is exempt from disclosure under GAO regulations (4 C.F.R. 81.6(a)(1)).

We are enclosing the following recently issued reports which may be of use to you in exploring the relationship between the international traffic in narcotics and small arms: (1) "Illegal Entry At United States-Mexico Border--Multiagency Enforcement Efforts Have Not Been Effective In Stemming The Flow Of Drugs And People," December 2, 1977; (2) November 1977 Staff Study On United States-Mexican Relations--An Overview.

In January 1977 the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Government Operations, held hearings on the subject of smuggling weapons in Mexico and its relation to narcotics trafficking from Mexico to the United States. For your convenience we have enclosed a copy of these hearings.

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In accordance with 4 C.F.R. §81.4(d), you are advised that further consideration of your request may be obtained by an appeal letter to the Comptroller General of the United States, setting forth the basis for your belief that the denial of your request for disclosure of report GGD-75-80 is unwarranted.

Sincerely yours,

A rectangular box with a black border, used to redact the signature of the Associate General Counsel.

Associate General Counsel

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Enclosures - 3



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